

MEMO

**State of Maine
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management
Division of Remediation**

TO: Mark Hyland, Bureau Director

FROM: Jean Firth, Brownfields Coordinator

Date: February 24, 2009

Subject: Brownfields Stimulus Funding

BACKGROUND:

As you are aware the federal stimulus package included 100 million dollars for the Brownfields Program specifically for competitive grants. These competitive grants are awarded through a long and involved process which began last September when the "FY09 Proposal Guidelines" were published. Grants are available to municipalities, government agencies and not for profit entities in three categories: Site Assessment, Clean-up and Revolving Loan Funds.

The normal Brownfields grant process would include the following steps:

- Applications submitted to EPA (by November 14, 2008).
- EPA at the regional level reviews the applications from their own region to determine if the site/entity is eligible.
- Eligible applications are sent to other regions to be scored.
- EPA Headquarters evaluates the scores and determines how much money will be spent in each category.
- Awards are announced between April and May 2009.
- Money is available October 2009.

The published guidelines indicated that a total of 81.3 million dollars were available and reportedly EPA received applications for approximately 211 million dollars. The additional money will fund most (but not all) of the applications submitted. We have not heard from EPA if the process will be changed due to the additional funding.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS:

Thirty (30) applications were submitted from entities in the State of Maine.

- 16 Site Assessment,
- 10 Clean-up and
- 4 revolving loan funds.

See the attached table for a complete list of applicants.

Site Assessment funding can be granted on a community wide basis or for a specific site. Only one of the applications was submitted for a specific site; the City of Augusta applied for \$350,000 for assessing the American Tissue Mill. For the community wide assessments applicants typically have not identified specific sites. The first task these communities undertake is to develop an inventory of sites which are then prioritized.

Revolving Loan Funding like site assessment funding is not usually associated with specific sites in the application. Forty percent of these funds can be granted to municipalities or not for profit entities and 60% must be loans. All funds are specific for clean-up and there is a 20% match required.

Clean-up funding is available for properties which are owned by a municipality or not for profit entity and is limited to \$200,000 per property and there is a 20% match required. A brief summary for each of the clean-up sites follows:

Waterville Industries, Waterville- This is a 32 acre parcel located in Waterville on the Sidney Town line and bordered by the Kennebec River on the east. There are 2 lagoons located on the property which were used for waste water disposal associated with Wyandotte Industries which was a wool processing facility located across Rt. 104 to the west of the site. The property is currently owned by the City of Waterville who obtained title through tax foreclosure in 2008. Phase I and II environmental site assessments were conducted on the property through the MEDEP Brownfields Program. Environmental issues associated with this site include contaminated sediments in the lagoons. Remediation will include draining the lagoons and capping the contaminated sediment.

McCain's, Washburn- This is a 4 acre parcel of land in along Salmon Stream where McCain's operated a French fry manufacturing facility. The Town obtained title through the Washburn Development Corporation in 2007. Phase I and II environmental site assessments were conducted on this site through the MEDEP Brownfields Program. Environmental issues identified onsite include asbestos in onsite buildings and petroleum contaminated soil and groundwater. Asbestos abatement was conducted for several buildings onsite which have been subsequently razed. Additional asbestos abatement is needed in the main building. Petroleum remediation was initiated by the MEDEP but due to funding issues has not been completed. A large pile of contaminated soil was stockpiled on the site adjacent to recreational trails which are used by children. The MEDEP has no plans to complete the remediation on this property. Because of eligibility issues, it is unlikely that this site will be funded through Brownfields.

Webbster's Mill, Orono- This site is a 3.82 acre parcel of land with a 54,400 square foot building which is located at the confluence of the Stillwater and Penobscot Rivers. The site was operated as a saw mill, paper mill and woolen mill between the 1870's and 1990's. The town of Orono obtained the property through a tax foreclosure in 2006. Phase I and II environmental site assessments were conducted by the MEDEP Brownfields Program. Environmental issues identified were asbestos in the onsite building and along the river bank as well as lead and

arsenic contaminated soil. Remedial actions needed include an asbestos abatement and consolidation and capping of contaminated soil.

Howland Tannery, Howland (3 sites)- This site is a 40 acre property comprised of 3 parcels located at the confluence of the Piscataquis and Penobscot Rivers. The site operated as a paper mill, plywood manufacturer, paper bag manufacturer, shoe manufacturer and a tannery. Phase I and II environmental site assessments were conducted through the MEDEP Brownfields Program. Environmental issues identified at the site include soil and groundwater contamination and a dump located along the rivers. Remedial actions needed at the site include capping the dump area and stabilizing the river bank. The Penobscot River Trust is in the process of obtaining the dam located on the Piscataquis River as well as an easement through the site for a natural fish bypass.

Sheldon Street School, Farmingdale- This site is a 6 acre parcel of land with a 23,000 square foot building that was operated by SAD 16 as an elementary school which was closed in 2000. The town of Farmingdale acquired the property in 2003. Phase I and II environmental site assessments have been conducted on the property through the MEDEP Brownfields Program. Asbestos in the onsite building was the only environmental issue identified. Remediation on this site will include an asbestos abatement.

Aerofab, Sanford- This is a 0.73 acre parcel of land with an onsite building that covers the majority of the site. The site has been used for several purposes since the 1800's including a woolen mill and an airplane parts manufacturer. The site is located in a mill complex which includes International Woolen located to the east and is bounded by the Mousam River on the north. On the east the site building is connected to the Sanford Mill building. Phase I and II environmental site assessments have been conducted on the property through the Sanford Brownfields Program and the MEDEP Brownfields Program respectively. Environmental issues identified include asbestos in the onsite building as well as soil and groundwater contamination.

Sanford Mill, Sanford- This is a small parcel of land with an onsite building that covers the majority of the site and shares a common wall with the Aerofab site. The site was investigated through the Sanford Brownfields Program. Environmental issues identified on the site include, PCB contamination in soil, volatile contamination in soil and groundwater as well as indoor air.

Bayside, Portland- This remediation is associated with a junkyard facility located in the Bayside area of Portland. The City is negotiating with the site owner to move them out of this area to a more appropriate area of the city. Clean-up for this site includes remediation of contaminated soil.

MEDEP BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT:

The MEDEP Brownfields Program will assign a project manager (PM) to each grant recipient. This PM will assist new grant recipients with the developing their Brownfields Programs as well as reviewing and overseeing site specific activities. We have recently been delegated the authority to review and approve site specific quality assurance plans for Brownfields sites in the state which will expedite the process of conducting sampling onsite. PM's in the Brownfields

Program are committed to ensuring quick reviews of plans and reports and work with each grant recipient to set schedules to meet their needs.

Our goal is to insure that all Brownfields projects are conducted efficiently and meet all of the federal and state requirements which will ultimately ensure the sites are successfully redeveloped.

EPA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Grant recipients are required to submit quarterly reports to EPA detailing how they have spent their money. For site specific tasks EPA reviews and approves all sites before work commences. EPA currently has an electronic form which must be completed for each site which details the specifics of the amount of money spent and the tasks on which they were spent.

November 2008 EPA Brownfields Applicant Summary:

Applicant	Hazardous Assessment	Petroleum Assessment	Clean-up	RLF	Coalition Assessment	New	\$\$
Augusta	X*					X	350,000
Eastern Maine Development Corp.	X					X	400,000
Greater Portland COG	X	X				X	200,000
Mid Coast Economic Devel					X**	X	1,000,000
Passamaquoddy Tribe	X					X	200,000
Piscataquis County Economic Deve	X					X	200,000
Washington County COG	X	X				X	400,000
Windham	X					X	200,000
Waterville			X			X	200,000
Washburn			X			X	200,000
Orono			X			X	200,000
Museum L-A						X	200,000
Howland			X (3)			X	600,000
Farmingdale			X			X	150,000
SMPRC				X			1,000,000
Sanford			X (2)				400,000
Portland			X				200,000
NMDC	X			X			1,200,000
Lewiston	X						200,000
KVCOG	X			X			1,200,000
Bath		X					200,000
MEDEP/ (MEDECD)	X	X		X		X	1,400,000
TOTAL	11	4	10	4	1	15	10,300,000

*- Site Specific

** - Petroleum & Hazardous